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 SECURITY INFORMATION
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

FORMATION REPORT

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REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 17 Jan. 1952

SUBJECT The Sesslavtsi Mining District of
the Bukhovo Uranium Mines

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1. The Sesslavtsi Mining District, which is part of the Bukhovo Uranium Mines, is situated two kilometers north of the village of Sesslavtsi, and has a total of 34 shafts, numbered from 1 to 34, which are being exploited at the present time. In addition there are several shafts which have been abandoned.
2. The entire Sesslavtsi District is devoted to mining an almost black-colored uranium ore. A total of 700 workers, both Trudoviks and civilians, are working in the Sesslavtsi District at the present time.
3. Production in the shafts is slow because the ore from all the shafts, with four exceptions, is taken out on hand-pushed cars through the main tunnels of the shafts. Shafts Nos. 4, 5, 19, and 34 are equipped with electric engines which pull the mine cars. The ore is dumped, according to grade, in bunkers located outside the shaft openings. A fleet of ZIS and Molotov trucks are used to carry the ore from the shafts to the processing plant in Bukhovo.
4. The Sesslavtsi District is serviced by one compressor station composed of four compressor machines installed in a one-story brick building. There is also a lumber warehouse, a small machine shop, and an iron workshop on the premises.
5. Until July 1951, No. 19 Shaft of the Sesslavtsi District was composed of three cross cuts: Nos. 15, 16, and 17. The main tunnel of the shaft was enlarged so that the ore could be loaded on the hand carts by crane.
6. All of the mine shafts are poorly braced, as a result of which many accidents occur. Only the main tunnels of the shafts are properly ventilated, and even in the latter the ventilating machinery is often out of order. During June 1951, on six different days, there were three or four cases of partial choking. The miners were taken outside and given an injection to bring back their consciousness. Cases of smothering and choking are every day occurrences. Lighting in the mines is deficient

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since only the main tunnels of the shafts are electrically lighted. The workers use carbide mining lamps which are frequently damaged. Water runs along the walls of all the mine shafts, and there are no rubber suits for the workers.

7. A Trudovak unit [redacted] is quartered in the Seslavtsi District. One-half of the troops are quartered in the monastery, and the other half [redacted] 50X1-HUM in wooden barracks in the monastery courtyard. Several rooms in the monastery have been appropriated for offices, kitchen, mess hall, officers' quarters, and troop quarters. The commander of the Trudovak unit is Senior Lieutenant Germanov, 31 years old, brown hair, newly commissioned.
8. The commander of all Trudovak units working in the Bakhovo Uranium Mines is Angel Tsanev Kaniti who has his headquarters in Sofia. The unit he commands is allegedly a regiment.
9. All engineers, technicians, and specialists in the Seslavtsi District are Soviets.

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